

1. (UNCHANGED) A method of providing ordered lists of service addresses, said method comprising:

creating an ordered list of service addresses to be used by a node of a computing environment to reach a service of said computing environment, said creating using a predefined equation to order a plurality of service addresses having the same ordering criterion, said predefined equation balancing use of said plurality of service addresses among said node and at least one other node of said computing environment; and

using said ordered list by said node to reach said service, wherein said ordered list is ordered specifically for said node.

2. (CANCELED)

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4. (NEW) The method of claim 1, wherein said ordering criterion comprises distance from said node to a plurality of servers corresponding to said plurality of service addresses.

5. (NEW) The method of claim 1, wherein said predefined equation is based at least in part on the number of said plurality of service addresses having the same

ordering criterion and a node number of said node.

6. (NEW) The method of claim 1, wherein said creating comprises ordering said service addresses based on distance from the node to servers of said service addresses.

7. (NEW) The method of claim 6, wherein said ordering based on distance comprises ordering based on lowest distance.

8. (NEW) The method of claim 1, wherein said predefined equation comprises:

$$[((a \text{ number of said node}) \bmod (\text{number of said plurality of service addresses having the same ordering criterion}) + k) \bmod (\text{number of said plurality of service addresses having the same ordering criterion})]$$
, wherein mod is an integer remainder of a division operation, and k is set to a selected value.

9. (NEW) The method of claim 8, wherein said predefined equation is computed a number of times, said number of times being equal to the number of said plurality of service addresses, and wherein k is incremented for each computation.

10. (NEW) The method of claim 8, wherein said same ordering criterion comprises equidistance from said node to a plurality of servers corresponding to said plurality of

service addresses.

11. (NEW) The method of claim 10, wherein said creating further comprises ordering said service addresses based on distance from the node to servers of said service addresses.

12. (NEW) The method of claim 1, wherein said service comprises a system registry service.

13. (NEW) The method of claim 1, wherein said creating is performed by a distributed configuration manager of said computing environment.

14. (NEW) The method of claim 13, wherein said distributed configuration manager provides said ordered list to one or more nodes of said computing environment.

15. (NEW) The method of claim 1, further comprising maintaining said ordered list.

16. (NEW) The method of claim 15, wherein said maintaining comprises updating said ordered list in response to a change in the service addresses of said list.

17. (NEW) The method of claim 16, wherein said maintaining is performed by at least one distributed configuration manager of said computing environment.

18. (NEW) A method of providing ordered lists of service addresses, said method comprising:

ordering a list of a plurality of service addresses according to an ordering criterion, said ordered list being ordered for a specific node; and

for at least one set of service addresses of said plurality of service addresses having a same value for the ordering criterion, selecting an order for the service addresses of the set, said selecting being based at least in part on workload distribution.

19. (NEW) The method of claim 18, wherein said selecting comprises:

indexing the service addresses of the set in a chosen order providing a set of indices corresponding to the service addresses of the set; and

determining an order for the plurality of indices, said order to represent the order of the service addresses of the set.

20. (NEW) The method of claim 19, wherein the chosen order is ascending order of service addresses.

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21. (NEW) The method of claim 19, wherein said determining comprises using an equation to determine the order, said equation being based at least in part on the number of said service addresses of said set and a node number of the specific node.

22. (NEW) The method of claim 21, wherein said equation comprises:

$$[((\text{node number}) \bmod (\text{number of said service addresses of the set}) + k) \bmod (\text{number of said service addresses of the set})]$$
, wherein mod is an integer remainder of a division operation, and k is set to a selected value.

23. (NEW) The method of claim 18, wherein said ordering criterion is based on distance from said node to a plurality of servers corresponding to said plurality of service addresses.

24. (NEW) The method of claim 23, wherein said ordering criterion comprises a lowest distance from said node to the plurality of servers.

25. (NEW) A system of providing ordered lists of service addresses, said system comprising:

means for creating an ordered list of service addresses to be used by a node of a computing environment to reach a service of said computing

environment, said means for creating using a predefined equation to order a plurality of service addresses having the same ordering criterion, said predefined equation balancing use of said plurality of service addresses among said node and at least one other node of said computing environment; and

means for using said ordered list by said node to reach said service, wherein said ordered list is ordered specifically for said node.

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26. (NEW) The system of claim 25, wherein said ordering criterion comprises distance from said node to a plurality of servers corresponding to said plurality of service addresses.

27. (NEW) The system of claim 25, wherein said predefined equation is based at least in part on the number of said plurality of service addresses having the same ordering criterion and a node number of said node.

28. (NEW) The system of claim 25, wherein said means for creating comprises means for ordering said service addresses based on distance from the node to servers of said service addresses.

29. (NEW) The system of claim 28, wherein said means for ordering based on distance comprises means for ordering based on lowest distance.

30. (NEW) The system of claim 25, wherein said predefined equation comprises:

$$[((a \text{ number of said node}) \bmod (\text{number of said plurality of service addresses having the same ordering criterion}) + k) \bmod (\text{number of said plurality of service addresses having the same ordering criterion})]$$
, wherein mod is an integer remainder of a division operation, and k is set to a selected value.

31. (NEW) The system of claim 30, wherein said predefined equation is computed a number of times, said number of times being equal to the number of said plurality of service addresses, and wherein k is incremented for each computation.

32. (NEW) The system of claim 30, wherein said same ordering criterion comprises equidistance from said node to a plurality of servers corresponding to said plurality of service addresses.

33. (NEW) The system of claim 32, wherein said means for creating further comprises means for ordering said service addresses based on distance from the node to servers of said service addresses.

34. (NEW) The system of claim 25, wherein said service comprises a system registry service.

35. (NEW) The system of claim 25, wherein said means for creating comprises using a distributed configuration manager of said computing environment.

36. (NEW) The system of claim 35, wherein said distributed configuration manager provides said ordered list to one or more nodes of said computing environment.

37. (NEW) The system of claim 25, further comprising means for maintaining said ordered list.

38. (NEW) The system of claim 37, wherein said means for maintaining comprises means for updating said ordered list in response to a change in the service addresses of said list.

39. (NEW) The system of claim 38, wherein said means for maintaining comprises using at least one distributed configuration manager of said computing environment.

40. (NEW) A system of providing ordered lists of service addresses, said system comprising:

means for ordering a list of a plurality of service addresses according to an ordering criterion, said ordered list being ordered for a specific node; and

for at least one set of service addresses of said plurality of service addresses

having a same value for the ordering criterion,
means for selecting an order for the service
addresses of the set, the selecting being based at
least in part on workload distribution.

41. (NEW) The system of claim 40, wherein said means
for selecting comprises:

means for indexing the service addresses of
the set in a chosen order providing a set of
indices corresponding to the service addresses of
the set; and

means for determining an order for the
plurality of indices, said order to represent the
order of the service addresses of the set.

42. (NEW) The system of claim 41, wherein the chosen
order is ascending order of service addresses.

43. (NEW) The system of claim 41, wherein said means
for determining comprises means for using an equation to
determine the order, said equation being based at least in
part on the number of said service addresses of said set and
a node number of the specific node.

44. (NEW) The system of claim 43, wherein said equation comprises:

$$[((\text{node number}) \bmod (\text{number of said service addresses of the set}) + k) \bmod (\text{number of said service addresses of the set})]$$
, wherein mod is an integer remainder of a division operation, and k is set to a selected value.

45. (NEW) The system of claim 40, wherein the ordering criterion is based on distance from said node to a plurality of servers corresponding to said plurality of service addresses.

46. (NEW) The system of claim 45, wherein the ordering criterion comprises a lowest distance from said node to the plurality of servers.

47. (NEW) A system of providing ordered lists of service addresses, said system comprising:

at least one node of a computing environment to create an ordered list of service addresses to be ordered specifically for and used by a node of the computing environment to reach a service of said computing environment, the creating using a predefined equation to order a plurality of service addresses having the same ordering criterion, said predefined equation balancing use of said plurality of service addresses among said node to use the ordered list and

at least one other node of said computing environment.

48. (NEW) A system of providing ordered lists of service addresses, said system comprising:

at least one node to order a list of a plurality of service addresses according to an ordering criterion, said ordered list being ordered for a specific node; and

at least one node to select, for at least one set of service addresses of said plurality of service addresses having a same value for the ordering criterion, an order for the service addresses of the set, the selecting being based at least in part on workload distribution.

49. (NEW) The system of claim 48, wherein said at least one node to order and said at least one node to select comprise the same at least one node.

50. (NEW) The system of claim 48, wherein said at least one node to order is different from said at least one node to select.

51. (NEW) At least one program storage device readable by a machine tangibly embodying at least one program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method of providing ordered lists of service addresses, said method comprising:

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creating an ordered list of service addresses to be used by a node of a computing environment to reach a service of said computing environment, said creating using a predefined equation to order a plurality of service addresses having the same ordering criterion, said predefined equation balancing use of said plurality of service addresses among said node and at least one other node of said computing environment; and

using said ordered list by said node to reach said service, wherein said ordered list is ordered specifically for said node.

52. (NEW) The at least one program storage device of claim 51, wherein said ordering criterion comprises distance from said node to a plurality of servers corresponding to said plurality of service addresses.

53. (NEW) The at least one program storage device of claim 51, wherein said predefined equation is based at least in part on the number of said plurality of service addresses having the same ordering criterion and a node number of said node.

54. (NEW) The at least one program storage device of claim 51, wherein said creating comprises ordering said service addresses based on distance from the node to servers of said service addresses.

55. (NEW) The at least one program storage device of claim 54, wherein said ordering based on distance comprises ordering based on lowest distance.

56. (NEW) The at least one program storage device of claim 51, wherein said predefined equation comprises:

$$[((a \text{ number of said node}) \bmod (\text{number of said plurality of service addresses having the same ordering criterion}) + k) \bmod (\text{number of said plurality of service addresses having the same ordering criterion})]$$
, wherein mod is an integer remainder of a division operation, and k is set to a selected value.

57. (NEW) The at least one program storage device of claim 56, wherein said predefined equation is computed a number of times, said number of times being equal to the number of said plurality of service addresses, and wherein k is incremented for each computation.

58. (NEW) The at least one program storage device of claim 56, wherein said same ordering criterion comprises equidistance from said node to a plurality of servers corresponding to said plurality of service addresses.

59. (NEW) The at least one program storage device of claim 58, wherein said creating further comprises ordering said service addresses based on distance from the node to servers of said service addresses.

60. (NEW) The at least one program storage device of claim 51, wherein said service comprises a system registry service.

61. (NEW) The at least one program storage device of claim 51, wherein said creating is performed by a distributed configuration manager of said computing environment.

62. (NEW) The at least one program storage device of claim 61, wherein said distributed configuration manager provides said ordered list to one or more nodes of said computing environment.

63. (NEW) The at least one program storage device of claim 51, wherein said method further comprises maintaining said ordered list.

64. (NEW) The at least one program storage device of claim 63, wherein said maintaining comprises updating said ordered list in response to a change in the service addresses of said list.

65. (NEW) The at least one program storage device of claim 64, wherein said maintaining is performed by at least one distributed configuration manager of said computing environment.

66. (NEW) At least one program storage device readable by a machine tangibly embodying at least one program of

instructions executable by the machine to perform a method of providing ordered lists of service addresses, said method comprising:

ordering a list of a plurality of service addresses according to an ordering criterion, said ordered list being ordered for a specific node; and

for at least one set of service addresses of said plurality of service addresses having a same value for the ordering criterion, selecting an order for the service addresses of the set, said selecting being based at least in part on workload distribution.

67. (NEW) The at least one program storage device of claim 66, wherein said selecting comprises:

indexing the service addresses of the set in a chosen order providing a set of indices corresponding to the service addresses of the set; and

determining an order for the plurality of indices, said order to represent the order of the service addresses of the set.

68. (NEW) The at least one program storage device of claim 67, wherein the chosen order is ascending order of service addresses.

69. (NEW) The at least one program storage device of claim 67, wherein said determining comprises using an equation to determine the order, said equation being based at least in part on the number of said service addresses of said set and a node number of the specific node.

70. (NEW) The at least one program storage device of claim 69, wherein said equation comprises:

$$[((\text{node number}) \bmod (\text{number of said service addresses of the set}) + k) \bmod (\text{number of said service addresses of the set})]$$
, wherein ~~mod~~ is an integer remainder of a division operation, and k is set to a selected value.

71. (NEW) The at least one program storage device of claim 66, wherein said ordering criterion is based on distance from said node to a plurality of servers corresponding to said plurality of service addresses.

72. (NEW) The at least one program storage device of claim 71, wherein said ordering criterion comprises a lowest distance from said node to the plurality of servers.